

5/14/76

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SERVICIO CULTURAL E INFORMATIVO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS
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1. Spoke to Videla before he left for U.S. and Videla is against any visits by any high-ranking US officials until he has had more time to consolidate his new Government.

2. Perry agrees with Videla, noting pamphlets attacking closeness of Junta with U.S. already in circulation and feeling that visit by Dr. K. would give fuel to leftist attacks on GOA. Perry added that there had been some thought of Simon's coming to Argentina, but both he and Videla were glad Simon did not come for above reasons.

3. At Videla's specific request, Perry told Rogers in Washington that Videla did not want Dr. K. to come here at this time and that he, Perry, had endorsed Videla's position.

4. Perry felt that Rogers had understood their point of view and that Dr. K. would not be coming to Argentina.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Hoel Lee
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TO : The Ambassador

DATE: May 14, 1976

FROM : DCM:MCChaplin *me*

SUBJECT: Views on Secretary's Visit to Argentina

At the Country Team Meeting this morning, several officers expressed reservations about the visit by the Secretary at this time. The reasons advanced were the following:

1. No visit should be made unless the Secretary could announce the resumption of Grant MAP training, ~~ENS~~, and the Data Exchange Agreement. The visit would be desirable if two or more of these items could be approved in connection with it. ✓
2. It is too early in terms of local domestic politics. However, if the Secretary visits other countries besides Chile, he should also visit Argentina. ✓
3. It is too early in terms of the performance of this regime for the U.S. to increase its respectability with a cabinet-level visit. ✓
4. The Secretary should not visit unless a list of the prisoners has been released, together with a statement on how they are to be tried or released. ✓
5. The Secretary's visit will bring an early end to this regime's honeymoon with the press, particularly in the human rights area. Under other circumstances it might be possible for this honeymoon--giving the GOA the benefit of the doubt--to continue for several months more. The intense interest aroused by the Secretary's visit will inevitably heighten concern about human rights issues and curtail the honeymoon. ✓

It is of interest that four of the five officers who had reservations raised the human rights issue in one form or another.

DCM:MC/pm

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